IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 4-7, 11, 14-15 and 17, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet transport apparatus comprising:

a sheet transport path for transporting a sheet, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path portion; and

a regulation member~~, said regulation member being~~ provided on a downstream side of the curved sheet transport path portion in said sheet transport path, and arranged away from the sheet transported in the sheet transport path by a predetermined distance, and being brought into contact with a swelling portion occurring on a surface of an envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion to press the swelling portion in the event that the envelope is transported as the sheet.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said regulation member is disposed at a location facing each of opposite end portions of the envelope with respect to a direction perpendicular to a transport direction of the envelope being passed through said sheet transport path.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising two pairs of rotary members provided in said sheet transport path for transporting the sheet and disposed along a direction perpendicular to a sheet transport direction, and holding means for rotatably holding said respective rotary members which are to be brought into contact with the inner-side surface of the envelope curved at said two pairs of rotary members, and wherein said regulation member is disposed in said holding means.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said regulation member comprise rotary members which face the inner-side surface of the curved envelope.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a distance between said regulation member and the envelope is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet transport apparatus comprising:

a sheet transport path having a curved sheet transport path portion; and

a regulation member, said regulation member being provided on a downstream side of the curved sheet transport path portion in said sheet transport path with being a predetermined distance spaced from an envelope to be transported in the event that the envelope is transported as the sheet,

wherein the regulation member presses a swelling portion occurring on a surface of the

envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion.

8. (Original) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the distance between said regulation member and the envelope is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

9. (Original) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said regulation member comprises a rib.

10. (Original) A sheet transport apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said regulation member comprises a rotary member.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus in which after a toner image formed on an image bearing member provided in an image forming portion is transferred to a sheet, the toner image is fixed in a fixing portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

sheet feeding means for feeding stored sheets one by one;

a sheet transport path, said sheet transport path transporting the sheet fed out by said sheet feeding means to said fixing portion, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path portion disposed between the image bearing member and the sheet feeding means; and

a regulation member~~, said regulation member being~~ provided on a downstream

side of the curved sheet transport path portion, and arrange away from the sheet transported in said sheet transport path by a predetermined distance, and being brought into contact with a swelling portion occurring on a surface of ~~the~~ an envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion to press the swelling portion in the event that the envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding means as the sheet.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said regulation member is disposed at a location facing each of opposite end portions of the envelope with respect to a direction perpendicular to a transport direction of the envelope being passed through said sheet transport path.

14. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 11, further comprising two pairs of rotary members provided in said sheet transport path for transporting the sheet and disposed along a direction perpendicular to a sheet transport direction, and holding means for rotatably holding said respective rotary members which are to be brought into contact with the inner-side surface of the curved envelope at said two pairs of rotary members, and wherein said regulation member is disposed in said holding means.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein said regulation member comprise rotary members which face the inner-side

surface of the curved envelope.

16. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a distance between said regulation member and the envelope is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus in which after a toner image formed on an image bearing member provided in an image forming portion is transferred to a sheet, the toner image is fixed in a fixing portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding portion, said sheet feeding portion being provided with a rotatable sheet feeding roller provided in contact with an upper surface of stacked sheets;

a sheet transport path, said sheet transport path being disposed between said sheet feeding portion and said fixing portion, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path portion disposed between the image bearing member and the sheet feeding portion; and

a regulation member~~, said regulation member being~~ provided on a downstream side of the curved sheet transport path portion in said sheet transport path, and being disposed a predetermined distance spaced from an envelope to be transported in the event that the envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding portion as the sheet,

wherein the regulation member presses a swelling portion occurring on a surface of the envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path.

18. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the distance between said regulation member and the envelope is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

19. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said regulation member comprises a rib.

20. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said regulation member comprises a rotary member.